

**University of West Georgia Alumni Association
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Saturday, May 18, 2019
Education Center, Room 1**

Members present: Steve Anthony, Joy Butler, Philip Cochran, Abbie Collie, Michael Davis, Peter Debick, Nancy Frank, Laura Garland, Greg Goodlett, Amy Goolsby, Melanie Hildebrandt, Wanda Johnson, Jason Kennedy, Wanda McGukin, Donnie Newsom, Brian Nichols, Terie Phillips, Semeka Samuels, Peggy Smith, Jason Thogmartin, Tracey Thompson, Troy Vollenweider, Donald Walker, Dexter Williams

Members absent: Carla Duncan, Gere Helton, Edna Huey, Warren Jones, Brenda Lewis, April McKown, Brad Mock, Donna Nicholas, Jenny Paul, Judy Rowell, Christy Sammon, Christopher Sanders, Robby Schultz, Scottlin Smith, Rob Sparks, Barbara Tanner, Joy White, Robert York

Others present: Acting President Micheal Crafton, Dave Fraboni, Ali Rosborough, Kevin Hemphill, Denice Perdue, Armani Hansell

Call to Order: Board President, Jason Thogmartin, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Board President, Jason Thogmartin, opened meeting with news that because of construction (noise) taking place in/around Z-6, the meeting today and the next Alumni Council meeting is being held in College of Education, Room 1. This meeting will be followed by the Annual Alumni Meeting.

New Board terms begin July 1, 2019.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the February 9, 2019 meeting were approved by the Board; Troy Vollenweider made motion to accept, seconded by Peter Debick.

University Staff, Board Officer, and Committee Reports:

Board President's Report: This is Jason's last meeting as Board President. Pleased with accomplishments over the past couple of years. The Board is an adaptable and outstanding group. Complimented the Nominations Committee and their efforts to present a robust and diverse group to join the Board. Also, development of a Strategic Plan to provide guidance for advancement of goals and objectives.

Good work this past year by all three committees; Alumni Engagement, Student/Alumni Committee, and Nominations Committee.

Phillip Cochran recognizes and thanks Jason for his leadership and service to the Board.

Executive Director's Report: Ali Rosborough Brief update on staff and events. Alumni Weekend - The Big Event, a community service opportunity for the Alumni Association and UWG students, was a tremendous success although there was no participation from any alumni. Will try again in 2020 and make a concerted effort to enlist alumni in general and from

the Board to participate. Jason suggests better communications to alumni about when, what, where in an effort to generate involvement.

Ali continues with update of Alumni Weekend. Amazing dinner and program to honor the incredible contributions made nationally and internationally by UWG alums. Presented the new Lillian Williams Award for the first time; Lillian Williams' family was present at the Awards Ceremony.

Staff working now to set date for 2020 Alumni Weekend to coincide with The Big Event and begin planning events. Encouraging groups to schedule reunions during this weekend, too.

In efforts to network beyond local community, successfully hosted Thirsty Thursdays on the second Thursday each month in different locations (Gwinnett County, Douglasville, Newnan). Average attendance has been 15-20. A suggestion was made that the event needs to be held in a space more appropriate for mingling. Being in the bar area (in Douglasville) was not conducive to maximizing conversations because of space limitations and other (non-alum) patrons sharing the same space.

Denise is traveling to different schools throughout region to host Coffee with Wolfie. This has been well-received by teachers and administrators in variety of schools as a way to reconnect and have a chance to be visible. Tremendous turnout at the schools and great opportunity to update on happenings on campus. Impact can be recruiting teachers for advanced degrees and possibly student recruitment.

Expanding this effort to corporations. Plans are to visit Southwire and Greenway in near future. Partnered with Development to host similar event at Tanner.

Plans underway for Homecoming, ADay, Thriving Under 30 (Sept 28, 2019), and the Diversity Workshop (Sept. 5, 2019).

Board Treasurer's Report: Phillip Cochran

Presented financial reports for the Association and scholarships.

President Thogmartin commented that giving by Alumni Board was in the 80 percent range this past year. Goal is 100 percent giving by the Board.

Legacy Scholarship information has been submitted to Admissions and should be awarded soon. Names of recipients will be presented at the July meeting.

Nominations Committee Report: Peter Debick

Received over 100 applications for Board service. An outstanding slate will be presented for approval.

Peter encouraged involvement in ADay (Oct 17, 2019) and giving to the need-based scholarship fund.

Peter thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and to chair the Nominations Committee. He is rotating off the Board this year.

Alumni Engagement Report: Michael Davis

Michael reported the success of volunteers hosting tailgates last year. At the July meeting, he will lead discussion for the upcoming season and tailgating host opportunities. Encouraged everyone to also plan to attend the games but definitely come to the tailgates. Parking will be free this season.

Will be identifying and planning involvement in other activities during the upcoming year.

Kevin Hemphill announced that tailgate registration is up and ready for this year. Changes made to make it more convenient, register once for multiple tailgates.

Student/Alumni Conn Committee Report: Melanie Hildebrandt for Brad Mock

Reminder to committee to finish Doodle poll so selections can be made for Thirty Under 30 in July. There are 58 candidates this year. Melanie will ask Brad to send survey committee to determine participation and feedback for mentoring program.

Suggestion made to follow-up and engage individuals who have applied to serve on Board but weren't selected. Should communicate and make concerted effort to get these people engaged. Send Michael Davis the list that could be used by the Engagement Committee; also reach out to these folks to serve as mentors.

New Business: Jason Thogmartin

Bylaws update – EC has met many times and discussed changes to bylaws.

Review of proposed changes: Format (cleaner, tighter, easier to read), updated to reflect best practices to peer institutions, and to align with bylaws of UWG Foundation and the Athletics Foundation.

Updated Membership, **Article 3.1** to include all who have matriculated and left in good standing. Suggestion to **Article 4.2** Administration, suggested *Board Members are highly encouraged to abide by the following: leadership, engagement, and fundraising tenants during their term of service.*

Correction to **Article 4.2d** *To develop an effective partnership with the UWG and UWG Athletic Foundations...*

Correction to **Article 4.3** Board of Directors Size: *The ~~regular~~ Board of Directors shall consist...*

Article 4.3 Changed Board size to reflect a range of members instead of a set number to provide a level of strength. Also, authorized 2 ex-officio, non-voting members (Chairpersons) from the UWG Foundation and the UWG Athletic Foundation in a reciprocal effort.

Article 4.5 Officially state the term of office for Board members is 3 years.

Article 4.6 to add the word who after each officer.

- (a) *Chairperson who shall provide...*
- (b) *The Secretary who shall record the minutes and attendance of the Board and the minutes of the Association.*
- (c) *Secretary who shall record the minutes and attendance roles of the Board...*
- (d) *Treasurer who shall make...*

Article 4.8 Life Members: Any person presented the Thelma Harman Turner Alumni Loyalty Award prior to the 2012 shall be designated a Life Member...

In response to a question about the number of Lifetime Members currently on the Board, there are 7 Lifetime Members of which 2 are active. The other 5 are no longer able to participate and be involved in the functions of the Board. There is no mechanism in place to add more Lifetime Members to the Board, President Thogmartin recommends at some future date, consider awarding Emeriti status to these 5 as a way to recognize their past service.

Article 4.9 Added category of Emeriti Board Members based on distinguished service to the Board and University.

Alumni Networks: Removed references to alumni networks as they have been discontinued in the current alumni relations strategy. Mr. Thogmartin noted that if at a future point the board decides to reestablish the networks, the bylaws may be amended to restore the provisions discussion of the network groups.

Proposed changes in titles of officers to be consistent with sister institutions as well as the other two Foundation boards. Changing title of President and Vice President to Chairperson and Vice Chairperson; reinstating role of Past President (Past Chairperson) to get us in line with requirements that, according to **Article 6.1**, the Past Presidents (Chairpersons) serve in a non-voting advisory capacity and are to be invited to all regular Association meetings.

Regarding how it will be determined how many candidates will serve on the Board now that a range is being implemented, that remains to be resolved. A suggestion would be made to the Nominations Committee and the Executive Council to discuss and make determination based on the quality of applicants.

There was a question regarding potential new Board members being notified in advance of selection to the Board prior to the actual vote. Ali Rosborough stated potential new members might have been notified that their names had been submitted for vote at the annual meeting. Neither President Thogmartin nor Ali Rosborough saw this as a concern since all alumni are invited to attend the annual meeting where the vote will be held.

A request if bylaws are approved today, these new bylaws be dated and the date reflected on any copy including if posted online.

A motion was made by Jason Kennedy to table the bylaws until the changes can be made, shared, and reviewed as there a number of changes have been suggested today.

President Thogmartin stated no substantial changes are being made which would affect the functionality, He suggests adopting bylaws with changes. Hesitant to delay vote as he wants new bylaws in place by July 1 for new Board.

Jason Kennedy expressed concern that word changes could change meaning of sentence and he would like a chance to read updated document before voting.

Discussion closed.

No second.

Motion does not carry to delay vote on bylaws.

Next is a motion to adopt bylaws with the changes discussed today as well as amendments to Section 4.2 (see above). Motion seconded. **Voted to approve.**

Adjournment of Regular Meeting: The Regular Alumni Association meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

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